Not in Library
Pepys

A Propoſal for IMPROVEMENT of HUSBANDRY and TRADE.

I Have formerly for the good of my Country, made Enquiries, and publiſh'd two Volumes of a Collection of Letters for *Improvement of Husbandry and Trade*, which I hope have been uſeful, and no way unacceptable to the Curious.

My private Occaſions then call'd me from that Work, which I have been very often ſolicited to revive, and am willing enough to undertake the trouble thereof, in a much higher degree than ever, provided I may have the *Aſſiſtance* and *Encouragement* hereafter propoſed.

The Matters intended to be inſiſted upon being very various, and not the Work of one or few hands, will oblige me to lay out for as large a *Correſpondence* as may be procured; and it is hoped I may obtain, *every Week*, one Letter at leaſt out of each County of the Kingdom; to which purpoſe, all Lovers of this *Work* are invited.

It is likewiſe intended,

To ſtop the Mouth of the *Tenant* that cauſleſly complains, and to open the Eyes and Heart of the over-hard *Landlord*, when the *Tenant* juſtly does ſo.

To inform the *Corn-Merchant*, *Meal-man*, *Baker*, *Brewer*, *Feeders of Cattel*, *&c.* when 'tis beſt to buy; and the *Farmer* or *Maultſter* when beſt to ſell.

To teach a Rule of ſelling *Beaſts* in one County, according to the Prizes of *Hay* in all the reſt.

To inform, not only thoſe that live in *Port*, but ſuch who live at *diſtance*, the beſt time of laying in their *Coals*.

To do the like for *Hop-Merchants*, *Soap-Boylers*, *Tallow-Chandlers*, *Wool-Merchants*, and their *Cuſtomers*.

I ſay for *theſe*, and ſuch like Purpoſes, it is intended *weekly* to give an Account from moſt of the *principal Places* of the Kingdom, of the Prizes of *Wheat*, *Rye*, *Mault*, *Oats*, *Peaſe*, *Hay*, *Coals*, *Hops*, *Tallow*, and *Wool*.

It is further deſign'd, for Incouragement of thoſe at diſtance to turn *Merchants*, and to inform them how their *Stock* goes, that they may thereby ſee when beſt to buy or ſell: To give *weekly* from *hence* an Account of the Value of the Actions of the *Eaſt-India*, *Guinea*, *Hudſons-Bay*, *Linnen*, and *Paper-Companies*.

And farther for the benefit of *Phyſicians*, *Apothecaries*, and others that are deſirous to know the ſtate of *Health* at *London*; as alſo for the *Political Arithmeticians* that deſire to know the *Increaſe* and *Decreaſe* of Places; 'Tis ſtill deſigned to give weekly an account of the ſeveral Parts of the *Bills of Mortality* of *London*.

And alſo for the benefit of all who are concerned in *Shipping*, either by their Eſtates or Friends, or are willing to know the Number of *Ships* trading to and from *London*; 'tis deſign'd to give an account *Weekly* of the *Shipping* into and out of the Port of *London*, with the Place whither *bound* and from *whence*.

And beſides theſe,

There ſhall be for their Entertainment, one or more Accounts or Diſcourſes upon ſome of the following *Heads*, being of undoubted Utility and publick Advantage; ſuch as are,

A full Catalogue of all ſorts of *Earths* that may be procured, to anatomize and diſtinguiſh them into their *Claſſes*, and to diſcover what is the proper *Product* of each; what the beſt ſort of *Compoſt* or *Manure* for each, and how to be *cultivated*; as alſo the Arts of *Dreining* and *Flooding Lands*, and ſuch like.

Ample and exact Hiſtories of Trades, as *Maulting*, *Brewing*, *Baking*, *Tanning*, *Dying*, *Potting*, *Glaſs-making*, and many others.

An account of Goods *imported* and *exported* from the *Cuſtom-Houſe* of *London*, to draw the particulars into *groſs Sums*, in order to examin the *Expence* and *foreign Vent* of each Commodity.

The Deſcription and Structure of all Inſtruments for *Husbandry* and of *Carriages*, with the *Deficiencies* of the ſame, and Propoſals for their *Amendment*; together with the Arts of *Conſerving* and *Amending* the *Roads* or *Highways*.

The Arts of *Fiſhing*, *Fowling*, *Hunting*, and *Deſtroying of Vermin*.

An Account of the *Rivers* of *England*, of their *Fountains*, *Bridges*, *Tides and Exits*, how far they are *Navigable*, and with what *Veſſels*.

An exact Compariſon of all ſorts of *Weights* and *Meaſures* uſed at this time in all parts of the World.

The comparative Strength and Weight of *Woods*, *Cordage*, *Mettals*, and other *Materials* in order to *Building* and *Stowage*.

Experiments on the *Vegetation* of *Plants*, to examine what *Mixtures* do promote or hinder it.

Epitomes of Books of *Husbandry* and *Trade*, and *Collections* of what elſe is to be met withall uſeful for the Advancement of *Husbandry*.

As good an Account as may be had of the *Trade*, *Strength* and *Policy* of other Nations.

In ſhort, all uſeful things fit for the *Underſtanding* of a plain Man.

And in Conſideration of the *Charge* and *Pains* requiſite to ſo great and difficult an *Undertaking*, all thoſe that are willing to encourage the ſame, are deſired to ſend me a *Guinea* before the firſt Quarter, and *Ten Shillings* before each Quarter afterwards, for which, they (paying the *Poſtage*) ſhall *weekly* receive from me a Letter, wherein they ſhall have certain and conſtant Advice, as aboveſaid.

And all the aforeſaid *Collections* (a part of which only can be imagin'd to come within the compaſs of a Letter) ſhall be entred into *Books*, under their proper *Heads*, where every thing may be ſeen in as *ſhort* a compaſs as the Nature of it will bear, by ſuch whoſe *Intereſt* or *Curioſity* ſhall encourage to come unto me, at my Houſe in S. *Bartholomew Lane* behind the *Royal Exchange* in *London*, where they ſhall find as much *Diligence* and *Faithfulneſs* as they can reaſonably deſire.

I preſume none will queſtion it to be my *Intereſt* to make it *tempting*; and I leave it to conſideration, that this will be of *publick Benefit*, and that I am to every one that deſires it, his Servant, to make theſe Collections for 40 *s. per ann.* However, I deſire none to be at Charge unleſs they be *chearfully willing*; only if they like the *Deſign*, that they will *recommend* it, and if they have any *Knowledg*, *Books*, or *Papers* tending this way, they will either *lend* or *give* them.

The next Letter after *Quarter Day*, and ſo for *four times*, ſhall mention that the *Quarter* is out, and whoever ſhall not ſend his *Mony* by that time, I ſhall conclude he deſires to have the Letters no *longer*; and if any ſhall think the *Charge* too great, ſeveral may *club*, making it as *eaſie* as they will, and have it ſent to any publick place of their meeting.

I firſt intend to ſettle my *Correſpondents*, and to begin my Letters at *Lady-Day* next.

John Houghton, Fellow of the Royal Society.

November 11. 1691.

THeſe *are to teſtify our Knowledge of the approv'd Abilities and Induſtry of Mr.* JOHN HOUGHTON *Citizen of* London *and Fellow of the* ROYAL SOCIETY *there, in the Diſcovery and Collection of* Matters *worthy Obſervation, and more particularly ſuch as relate to the* Improvement *of* Husbandry *and* Trade. *Towards his furtherance wherein, and in his laudable Inclination already experienc'd, and now further deſign'd, to the communicating the Effects thereof to the* Publick; *We do hereby moſt willingly give him this* Teſtimony *of our* Knowledge *and* Eſteem, *in order to the recommending him*

to

to the Notice, Aſſiſtance, *and* Encouragement *of all Gentlemen and others, deſirous of promoting the Endeavours of a* Perſon *ſo qualify'd and diſpos'd to the ſervice of his* Country.

Rob[t] Southwell.
Thomas Meres.
John Hoskins.
Peter Pett.
Anth. Deane.
John Evelin.
Tho. Henſhaw.
Abraham Hill.
Samuel Pepys.
John Creed.
Thomas Gale.
John Scott.
Robert Plot.
Daniel Coxe.
Nehem. Grew.
Edward Tyſon.
Frederick Slare.
Robert Pitt.
Hans Sloane.
H. Chamberlen.
William Hewer.
Henry Whiſtler.
Alex. Pitfield.
Richard Waller.
Edw. Haynes.
Tho. Langham.
Franc. Lodwick.
Edm. Halley.

If this be carefully preſerv'd, 'twill witneſs againſt the Propoſer, if he keeps not his Promiſe.